

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9603

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2841

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UY, US

SUBJECT: THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES

REFS: A) MVD 2495; B) STATE 192947; C) MVD 2600; D) MVD 2767

1. THE GOU'S REACTION TO THE FREEDOM OF ACTION VOTE WAS JUST AS NEGATIVE AS WE PROJECTED ACCURATELY IN OUR PREVIOUS THIRD COUNTRY ISSUE CABLE (REFTEL A), AND HAVE REPORTED IN SEVERAL CABLES SINCE THE VOTE IN SAN JOSE. I THEREFORE SEE NO NEED TO REPEAT ALL THAT INFORMATION ONCE AGAIN.

2. I WOULD LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO MY COMMENT IN REFTEL A THAT, "WE MUST ANTICIPATE THAT THE GOU WILL EXPECT THE U.S. TO SHOW DUE CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEM OF CUBAN SUBVERSION AGAINST URUGUAY."; ALSO TO OUR REPORT THAT "IF WE APPEAR TO DISREGARD GOU VIEWS AND INTEREST ON THE CUBA ISSUE, WE CAN EXPECT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CIRITCISM." UNFORTUANTELY, THE U.S. STATEMENT IN SAN JOSE IN RELATION TO THE U.S. VOTE ON THE FREEDOM OF ACTION RESOLUTION MADE NO REFERENCE FROM INTERVENTION IN THE FUTURE AND THE CRITICISM WE ANTICIPATED HAS RATHER FULLY DEVELOPED. REFTEL C CONTAINS MY THOUGHTS ON THIS PROBLEM WHICH THE GOU CONSIDERS TO BE CURRENT AND OF IMPORTANCE TO IT. IT REPEAT MY RECOMMENDATION IN THAT CABLE THAT AN "APPROPRIATE OCCASION BY FOUND NOW TO MAKE SOME
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SUCH REFERENCE IN ANOTHER CONTEXT TO DEMONSTRATE TO GOU A MORAL

AFFINITY WITH THEM, AT LEAST ON THE ISSUE OF NON-INTERVENTION."
FOR USEFUL IMPACT, SUCH A REFERENCE SHOULD BE PUBLICLY MADE.

3. THE IMPRESSION BEING GIVEN BY U.S. PRESS REPORTING, RIGHTLY OR
WRONGLY, IS THAT THE U.S. IS BEING RUSHED TOWARD SOME KIND OF
ACCOMMODATION WITH AND PERHAPS RENEWED RELATIONS WITH CUBA. FOR
EXAMPLE, THE FACT THAT CASTRO DECIDES TO RETURN A \$2 MILLION CHECK
THAT HE HAD NO MORAL RIGHT OT RECEIVE OR HOLD, IS NOW SEEN BY SOME
AS A GENEROUS GESTURE OF SINCERITY TO WHICH THE U.S. OUGHT TO RES-
POND IN KIND. THERE IS ALSO DEVELOPING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S.
HAS BEEN WRONG ALL ALONG IN ITS ATTITUDES TOWARDS CUBA AND THAT
CASTRO IS THE AGGRIEVED PARTY IN THIS HISTORY. REVELATION OF
SUPPOSED CIA ACTS, PLANS OR ATTEMPTS ON CUBA AND CASTRO ABET THIS
IMPRESSION. HOWEVER THIS MIGHT BE VIEWED FROM THE U.S. PERSPEC-
TIVE, IT APPEARS, AS SEEN FROM HERE AND WITH URUGUAYAN EYES, TO
BE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN INNOCENCE AND WILLINGNESS TO BE
DECEIVED.

4. THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA SHOULD HAVE SOME
POSITIVE IMPACT AND REDUCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CRITICISM SUCH AS
APPEARED LAST WEEK (REFTEL D). THE CHARGE THAT THE U.S. WAS ACTING
IN BAD FAITH IWTH RESPECT TO PANAMA, BASED IN PART ON PRESIDENT
FORD'S RECENT STATEMENT THAT NOTHING COULD BE DONE UNTIL AFTER OUR
ELECTIONS, WILL BE AHRD TO COUNTER IF IT MERELY APPEARS THAT WE
ARE STALLING FOR TIME RATHER THAN NEGOTIATING SINCERELY IN GOOD
FAITH. SKILLFUL PUBLIC RELATIONS HANDLING OF AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S
EFFORTS MIGHT HELP OVERCOME THE PRACTICAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS
FACED. BUT I SUPPOSE THE REAL ISSUE IS WHETHER TORRIJOS CAN BE
INDUCED TO COOPERATE IN THE LIGHT OF THESE PROBLEMS WE HAVE, OR
WHETHER HE WILL CHOOSE TO PLAY TO HIS LA GRANDSTAND TO MAKE
THINGS HARDER FOR US; PRESUMABLY TO EXTRACT SOME ADVANTAGE. THUS,
AS IT APPEARS FROM HERE, THE U.S. POLITICAL PROBLEM WITH RES-
PECT TO A TREATY, ITS RATIFICATION, AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OUR
ELECTIONS GIVES CONSIDERABLE PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE TO THE PANAMAN-
IAN SIDE.
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